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"JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR" COMING SOON

The cast for the Japanese version of the Webber and Rice 'rock opera,' "Jesus Christ Superstar," was announced by the Shiki Theatrical Company on March 8, 1973. The three main characters will be portrayed by a new face in the entertainment world with Kaga Takeshi as Jesus, a well-known young actor Iino Osami as Judas, and a top-ranking young opera star Shimada Yuko as Mary Magdalene. Music will be under the direction of Wakasugi Hiroshi assisted by the popular young rock musician Fukamachi Jun.

Members of the cast are new in London for on-the-spot observation and training where the "Jesus Christ Superstar Movement" got underway in 1969. By 1971, the album of the first London recording had sold over 3 million copies in the United States where it opened as a Broadway production in October of the same year.

In January of 1972, the director of the Japanese cast, Asari Keita attended a performance on Broadway where he was so deeply moved that he felt it to be his mission to have this rock opera staged in Japan. After many months of hard work, his mission will soon be realized. Tickets will go on sale on May 10 for the Tokyo performances to be held at the new Sun Plaza Hall in front of the Nakano ward office from June 19 through July 6. Tickets for the Tokyo performances are from 1500 to 3000 yen. (For reservations call Mr. Takayuki Tsukagoshi at 370-5176--JCAN readers receive discount.)

A recording of the Japan cast will be released by Toshiba Records in conjunction with the performance. The original London release by MCA is an excellent recording which will be hard to match. Even the recording of the Broadway cast fell short of the mark.

Some churches have already used the records in various ways within their own settings, but one wonders if the church at large will be prepared for the impact of this powerful rock opera on the "now" generation in Japan. While such a "contemporary and "secular" statement of the gospel may come as a shock to many within the church, resulting in a type of negative defensiveness of the "orthodox" gospel, it is hoped that it may open doors of dialog with many who have never heard the traditional "spoken" word. Perhaps such an encounter will be both a *reminder* and/or a *revelation* to those within the church that when they tend to let the living Christ become "spiritualized" or compartmentalized into "creeds" and "theology," it is then that the power of the living Christ loses its relevance for us and becomes merely a historical relic.

JCAN April 13 * COFFEE HOUSE ANYONE?

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The first consultation on Coffee House Mission will be held from 10:30 on Wed. May 16 to 4:00 p.m. Thurs. May 17, at the Kansai Seminar House, Kyoto. Sponsor is the Nippon Christian Academy with the co-operation of the NCC.

The consultation is open to all engaged in or interested in Coffee House Mission. Case studies will be presented of coffee houses now in operation in Sapporo, Tokyo and Osaka. "Jesus and Dialogue" will be the theme of the Bible study. Among the aspects of coffee house mission to be discussed are programming, management, volunteer training, uses of music....

Persons interested should contact Miss Yumiko Itoharu, Kansai Seminar House, 23 Take-no-uchi-cho, Ichijo-ji, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto (Tel 075-711-2115) by May 10.

MASS COMMUNICATION COOPERATIVE PROPOSED

The desirability of Christian media cooperating in mass communication efforts was voiced by five out of seven agencies replying to a survey conducted by the Lutheran World Federation Broadcasting Service Tokyo Office recently. The results are reported in an article by George L. Olson, director of the Tokyo Office, in an article scheduled for publication in the May issue of the *Japan Missionary Bulletin* of the Oriens Institute for Religious Research.

Eighteen media offices were queried; seven replied, and five expressed both interest and optimism.

Suggestions as to the best form of cooperation varied, as did the specific needs mentioned. For some, financial assistance is a primary concern. For others joint programming, the sharing of information, and joint sponsorship are most needed.

Noting the wide differences of opinion about how they organize for joint action, Olson suggests as possible immediate steps:

- face-to-face meetings to discuss differences of opinion
- a monthly or weekly prayer fellowship for media workers--church and secular
- joint action for those who feel led to it by the Spirit
- interest groups on ongoing concerns
- the setting aside of a percentage of each organization's annual budget for joint action.

Media which responded to the LWF survey were Catholic Graph, a 64-page monthly magazine; THE CHRISTIAN, weekly newspaper devoted to promoting evangelism among non Christians and churches, SEIBUNSHA, Lutheran Literature Society; CHRISTIAN REFORMED JAPAN MISSION, sponsor of a daily radio program; AVACO, THE Audio-Visuals Commission of the NCC, producer of radio programming and audio-visual materials for varied church use; THE FAR EAST BROADCASTING CO., producer of a short-wave program broadcast into Japan from abroad; and the JAPAN LUTHERAN HOUR, producer of eight programs in various formats.

NANBANDERA CHURCH FACTS UNEARTHED

Archeological findings in Kyoto which recently aroused much speculation (see JCAN #428, March 16) have been identified in more detail by Prof. Koichi Mori of Doshisha University, according to an article in the April 6 issue of *Tosei News*. Mori has been working for a month in archeological remains found on the land of a shop owner near the busy Shijo-Karasuma intersection.

Mori believes he has found part of the foundations of the first church in Kyoto, built in 1576. The three-story building is said to have had foundation stones so heavy as to require 30 workman to lift them, and the wooden structure to have been the product of 1700 workmen. It was destroyed however only 11 years later when Hideyoshi replaced Nobunaga, a shogun favorable to Christianity, and began widespread persecutions.

An appeal for support for the movement of Formosan Christians for Self Determination was voiced by Dr. Chiong-hui Hwang (Shoki Coe) when he visited the NCC General Assembly on March 28.

Dr. Hwang is one of the four initiators of a group in the United States organized to: 1) attain a stronger manifestation of Christian conviction on human rights for Formosa; 2) promote the cause of self-determination for the political future of Formosa; and 3) work towards the emergence of a free and just society in Formosa.

The present movement stems from a Public Statement on Our National Fate published by the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan on Dec. 30, 1971 (see JCAN #426, Feb. 9). The statement asserted that the right to determine the fate of Formosans is a human right given the Formosans by God; it demanded justice and freedom and called for a general election to form a new representative government.

Following that statement, in August 1972 Formosan Christians in the Midwestern United States issued an appeal urging and reaffirming the rights and opportunities of all Formosans to participate fully in determining the fate and the future of Formosa. On March 20 of this year twenty-five Formosan Christians met in Washington to discuss future policies for the movement.

Referring to the fact that "the heart cry of the people in Formosa has been ignored," the Formosan Christians for Self Determination statement declares:

We are dismayed, chagrined and indignant. Until recently, the big powers had unmistakably insisted that the status of Formosa was still undetermined. But the admission of the People's Republic of China into the United Nations and Mr. Nixon's visit to China radically changed the situation. Canada "took note of," the United States "acknowledged" and Japan fully understood and respected "Peking's claim on Formosa as part of China."

The new "appeal" is seeking world-wide support for the right of the Formosans to determine their own future. The other "initiators" are Rev. Dr. Choan seng Song, president of Tainan Theological College from 1965-70 and now secretary for Asian Ministries with the Reformed Church in America; Rev. Wu-tong Hwang, former leader in the Presbyterian Church in Formosa, and director of Taiwan Christian Service, now retired in the U.S.; Dr. Tsung-yi Lin, from 1965-69 a medical officer for WHO, and since 1969 Prof. of Community Health at School of Public Health and Professor of Psychiatry at School of Medicine, University of Michigan.

ICU CELEBRATES 20/25

A power plant, a library extension, and a gymnasium and swimming pool--these additions to the facilities of International Christian University in Mitaka were dedicated Sat. April 7 in ceremonies marking the 25th year since the school was founded and the 20th year since it opened.

The observances included an address reviewing the dream and achievement of IUC by Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, president from 1950 to 1961 and chairman of the board of trustees; the presentation of a citation to Miss Ruth Miller of New York, executive director of the powerful Japan International Christian University Foundation; and a lecture by Dr. Masunori Hiratsuka.

Hiratsuka, director of the National Institute of Education, speaking from long experience with education in Japan and abroad, and particularly UNESCO, proposed that 50 to 100 years from now, the last half of the 20th century will be seen as the time when people began to think about education in the global sense.

He set forth twelve criteria recently drawn up for evaluating universities. Among these, he rated ICU high particularly in the categories of functional literacy, education of women (53% of student body), international cooperation, democratization, leadership in society. As other measures of a university, he referred to the freedom for students to choose what they shall study, the provision for graduate studies in education, a continuing education program, the inclusion of all ages to supersede the domination of campuses by youth, reconciliation of the traditional and radical, and moral education.

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JCAN April 13 * ICU CELEBRATES 20/25 (continued from page 3)
p. 4 (36) * Guest speakers paid special tribute to the ICU and campus
* * * * * facilities, cherry blossoms being in full bloom for the occasion,
to the international nature of ICU student body and faculty (10%
of the students and 20% of the faculty are from abroad), and to its liberal arts
approach. These were, it was said, things in which ICU has been a forerunner.

Note was also made of the fact that 500 of ICU's 3,070 graduates are now
oneness. Of the sixty Japanese staff members in the UN offices, 16 are ICU
graduates.

The library extension expands the capacity to 300,000 volumes doubles the
seating capacity, and offers "separate access night study room and other services.
The cost of the three projects totalled ¥66,838,400.

KYODAN ASSEMBLY PREPARATION COMMITTEE PROPOSES DATE

The General Assembly Preparation Committee, in a proposal drawn up at its
March 29-30 meeting for presentation to the next Executive Committee meeting, is
proposing that the General Assembly of the Kyodan, which has been postponed
since 1970, be held Nov. 20-23. The recommendation suggests that the Assembly
focus on four topics: 1) the Assembly system, 2) the philosophy of mission, 3)
ministerial orders, and 4) the confession of faith.

The committee elected Rev. Isaku Toda of Chubu District to succeed Rev.
Ichiro Kojima as chairman when Kojima was not re-elected moderator of his district
and thus was no longer eligible to serve on the Preparation Committee, which is
composed of district moderators and selected laymen.

JAPAN YWCA DEDICATES NEW CENTER

A neat modern building, painted white, replaces the dignified old head-
quarters of the Japan YWCA near Ichigaya station in Tokyo. One of about eighty
wellwishers who attended its dedication on April 4 was so moved that she began
her greetings: "I just can't recover from the surprise I got when I first saw
this new building half an hour ago." For her, the old, quiet, not-too-bright
building was *the* YWCA.

Designed by Shinkenka Architectural Co., the new 350 tsubo (1,140 sq.m.)
four-story building features efficiency, just as any modern building does. Its
first floor houses office rooms, a meeting hall; the second floor, kitchen,
dining hall and two Japanese *tatami* rooms; the third and fourth floors, hostel.

The change in the building well represents perhaps the changes that have
been taking place once the past few years through the process of serious dis-
cussions within the YWCA. With a goal of the evangelization of non-Christians
in Japan, the Japan YWCA was established in 1905. As the theological inter-
pretation of Mission changes in Japanese churches, the YWCA has likewise under-
gone a change in its emphasis. The most recent change related to the nature of
membership. Now membership is not limited to the Christians. Full voting power
is accorded many non-Christian members, who participate in the YW's activities of
social service and justice. Thus the YWCA is now fully prepared to participate
in the mission of God in this world with other, non-Christian, co-workers. It
was inevitable that the old, quiet headquarters should have to be replaced by a
modern building.

As President Ayako Sekiya and General Secretary Asa Uoki expressed in their
greetings to those assembled at the ceremony, the Japan YWCA is now to be even
more committed to responding the call of God to go "into the world".

EACC PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Photos are being solicited on the theme of "Struggle in Asia" from any
citizen of an Asian nation in conjunction with the 5th EACC Assembly to be held
in Singapore on June 6-12, 1973. The overall theme of this Assembly is on
"Christian Action in the Asian struggle". For further information please contact
the NCCJ office, Tel. (03) 203-0372.